

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus operable in a first image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a first predetermined image forming condition and a second image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a second image forming condition which is different from the first predetermined image forming condition and is set so that an amount of consumption of developer with respect to an identical image in the second image formation mode is smaller than that in the first image formation mode, the apparatus comprising:

a storing device configured to store threshold information on an amount of usage of the image bearing member;

a controller configured to set said the image forming apparatus in the first image formation mode or the second image formation mode; and

an image processing controller configured to discriminate a size of a concentrated pixel area in image information when the second image formation mode is set; and and to perform first and second image density lowering processes on image information presenting pixel areas of different sizes, depending on the discriminated size of the pixel area.[:]

~~a controller configured to set the image forming apparatus in the first image formation mode or the second image formation mode;~~

wherein ~~said controller~~; in a state in which said controller is configured to set said image forming apparatus in the second image formation mode, switches the second image forming condition when the amount of usage of the image bearing member reaches a predetermined threshold represented by predetermined threshold information on the basis of a an image density lowering process performed on the image information by said image processing controller is changed depending on the discrimination result of said image processing controller in such a manner that the first image density lowering process is performed so that image information representing pixels in pixel areas of a first size of the image to be formed is a first image density, and the second image density lowering process is performed so that image information representing pixels in pixel areas of a second size of the image to be formed is a second image density lower than the first image density; and wherein said controller sets the second image forming condition on the basis of the discrimination result of said image processing controller and the threshold information stored in said storing device when the amount of usage of the image bearing member reaches a predetermined threshold represented by the threshold information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller ~~changes~~ sets the second image forming condition depending on whether the concentrated pixel area is larger or smaller than a predetermined size.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of thresholds represented by the threshold information on the amount of usage of the image bearing member is predetermined threshold information, and stored in said storing device, and

wherein said controller ~~switches~~ sets the second image forming condition when the amount of usage of the image bearing member reaches a predetermined threshold of the predetermined threshold information, each of the thresholds represented by the predetermined threshold information being stored in said storing device.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said image forming apparatus further comprises an exposure device configured to expose the image bearing member, wherein the second image formation condition includes an exposure operation condition on the exposure device.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the exposure operation condition is an exposure time or luminous energy of said exposure device.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said apparatus includes a charging member configured and positioned to electrically charge the image bearing member and a developing member configured and positioned to supply the developer to the image bearing member, and

wherein the second image forming condition comprises a charging condition of the charging member and a developing condition of the developing member.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the charging condition is a bias voltage applied to the charging member and the developing condition is a bias voltage applied to the developing member.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image bearing member and said storing device are integrally supported to form a cartridge which is detachably mountable to the image forming apparatus.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the cartridge further comprises the charging member or the developing member.

11. (Withdrawn) A cartridge for being detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus having a first image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a first predetermined image forming condition and a second image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a second image forming condition which is different from the first predetermined image forming condition and is set so that an amount of consumption of developer with respect to an identical image in the second image formation mode is smaller than that in the first image formation mode, said cartridge comprising:

the image bearing member, and

storing means for storing information on the cartridge, said storing means having a first storing area for storing information on an amount of usage of the image bearing member for changing the second image forming condition.

12. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein said storing means further has a second storing area for storing the amount of usage of the image bearing member.

13. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the information on the amount of usage of the image bearing member is predetermined threshold information.

14. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein said image forming apparatus further comprises exposure means for exposing the image bearing member and the second image forming condition is an exposure operation condition of said exposure means.

15. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein the exposure operation condition is an exposure time or luminous energy of said exposure means.

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said apparatus includes a charging member for electrically charging the image bearing member and a developing member for supplying the developer to the image bearing member, and the

image forming condition comprises a charging condition of the charging member and a developing condition of the developing member.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the charging condition is a bias voltage applied to the charging member and the developing condition is a bias voltage applied to the developing member.

18. (Withdrawn) A storing device to be mounted to a cartridge for being detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus including an image bearing member and having a first image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a first predetermined image forming condition and a second image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a second image forming condition which is different from the first predetermined image forming condition and is set so that an amount of consumption of developer with respect to an identical image in the second image formation mode is smaller than that in the first image formation mode, said storing device having:

a first storing area for storing information on an amount of usage of the image bearing member for changing the second image forming condition.

19. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 19, wherein said storing device further has a second storing area for storing an amount of usage of the image bearing member.

20. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 18, wherein the information on the amount of usage of the image bearing member is predetermined threshold information.

21. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 18, wherein said image forming apparatus further comprises an exposure device for exposing the image bearing member and the information with respect to the second image forming condition is information on an exposure operation condition of said exposure device.

22. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 21, wherein the information on the exposure operation condition is an exposure time or luminous energy of said exposure device.

23. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said apparatus includes a charging member for electrically charging the image bearing member and a developing member for supplying the developer to the image bearing member, and the image forming condition comprises a charging condition of the charging member and a developing condition of the developing member.

24. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the charging condition is a bias voltage applied to the charging member and the developing condition is a bias voltage applied to the developing member.

25. (Withdrawn) A storing device to be mounted to a cartridge for being detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus including an image bearing member and having a first image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a first predetermined image forming condition and a second image formation mode for forming an image on an image bearing member by using developer under a second image forming condition which is different from the first predetermined image forming condition and are set so that an amount of consumption of developer with respect to an identical image in the second image formation mode is smaller than that in the first image formation mode, said storing device having:

a first storing area for storing information on an amount of usage of the image bearing member for changing the second image forming condition,

wherein the information for changing the second image forming condition is information which is used in the second image formation mode but is not used in the first image formation mode.

26. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 25, wherein said storing device further has a second storing area for storing the amount of usage of the image bearing member.

27. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 25, wherein the information on an amount of usage of the image bearing member is predetermined threshold information.

28. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 26, wherein said image forming apparatus further comprises an exposure device for exposing the image bearing member and the information with respect to the second image forming condition is information on an exposure operation condition of said exposure device.

29. (Withdrawn) A device according to Claim 28, wherein the information on the exposure operation condition is an exposure time or luminous energy of said exposure device.

30. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein said apparatus includes a charging member for electrically charging the image bearing member and a developing member for supplying the developer to the image bearing member, and the image forming condition comprises a charging condition of the charging member and a developing condition of the developing member.

31. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the charging condition is a bias voltage applied to the charging member and the developing condition is a bias voltage applied to the developing member.